In the Claims

1   1.   [Currently Amended] An image forming   monitoring

2   method comprising:

3   storing information regarding a plurality of con   orm hard

4   images, wherein the stored information for an individual one of the consumables includes

5   a stored consumable identifier which identifies the respective consumable and a stored

6   party identifier utilized to identify a proper party of the respective consumable;

7   receiving information regarding a consumable to be verified including a received

8   consumable identifier which identifies the consumable to be verified and a received party

9   identifier utilized to identify the proper party associated with the consumable to be

10   verified;

11   comparing the received consumable identifier with at least one of the stored

12   consumable identifiers;

13   comparing the received party identifier with at least one of the stored party

14   identifiers;

15   outputting a message responsive to the comparings to indicate use of the

16   consumable to be verified by an unauthorized party who is not authorized to use the

17   consumable; and

18   wherein the comparing the received consumable identifier comprises comparing

19   the received consumable identifier with ~~a plurality~~ at least one of the stored consumable

20   identifiers, further comprising matching the received consumable identifier with one of the

21   stored consumable identifiers, and wherein the comparing the received party identifier

22   comprises comparing after the matching.

1   2.   [Canceled].

1   3.   [Original] The method of claim 1 further comprising forwarding a

2   command to an image forming device coupled with the consumable to be verified to

3   disable at least one operation of the image forming device coupled with the consumable

4   to be verified responsive to the comparings.

1   4.   [Previously Presented] The method of claim 1 further comprising

2   forwarding another message comprising a warning message to an image forming device

3   coupled with the consumable to be verified responsive to the comparings.